

istic robust style which opened by saying sending separate note which he realized would displease King but felt could speak frankly to King as old companion in arms and hoped that any adverse effect on traditional friendship would only be temporary. British had responsibilities vis-à-vis sheikhdoms which must be discharged and could not abandon weak when faced by strong. He felt King would understand this point of view. Situation was that British were doing what they thought was right and King was doubtless doing likewise. So far neither had been able to convince the other but it should not be beyond scope of statesmanship to find just solution.

Ambassador said acting head Foreign Office asked what "reserving freedom of action" meant. Ambassador said he could not elaborate but thought meaning clear. Acting head Foreign Office then asked if this should be considered declaration of war. Ambassador said constituted nothing of the kind and he resented any such implication by acting head Foreign Office.

Would appreciate Embassy London's sending if available copy of Churchill's letter which British Ambassador tells me is not being released together with note but being kept confidential.

HARE

No. 1512

780.022/4-153: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Saudi Arabia*¹

SECRET
PRIORITY

WASHINGTON, April 2, 1953—4:06 p. m.

565. Dhahran for Ambassador. In view implications latest British action Buraimi Department giving consideration to likelihood Saudi representations regarding Truman letter October 31, 1950.² Current thinking in Department as follows:

Despatch Saudi force Buraimi August 1952 indicative expanding Saudi ambitions which in past have periodically come to fore in Arabian Peninsula. Truman letter was intended provide Ibn Saud some measure assurance against external threat his security and not to serve as cloak for Saudi expeditions into disputed territories on periphery his domain. However applicability Truman letter to Buraimi will depend upon circumstances as developed in this dis-

¹ Drafted by Fritzman, and cleared by BNA and NE. Repeated to London and Dhahran.

² For text of this letter, see *Foreign Relations*, 1950, vol. v, p. 1190.